

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 202507 TOSEC 100161

64

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66615

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK/MW

APPROVED BY NEA:PDCONSTABLE

S/S: JLHOGANSON

----- 072573

P 260255Z AUG 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 202507 TOSEC 100161

NODIS

FOL REPEAT KABUL 5536 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 25

QTE

S E C R E T KABUL 5536

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, SOV

REPORTED SOVIET APPROACH TO PAKISTAN ON PAK/AF BORDER

REF: A. STATE 195235 B) KABUL 5307 C. ISLAMABAD 7433

1. PAKISTAN DCM IN KABUL TANVIR AHMED KHAN PAID CALL ON ME
AUGUST 24 TO BRIEF ME ON BEHALF OF AMBASSADOR ARSHAD "ON AN
EXTRAORDINARY SERIES OF EVENTS WHICH HAD OCCURRED RECENTLY".
HE SAID IT INVOLVED SOVIET/PAK RELATIONS AND THE RUSSIAN
POSITION IN SOUTH ASIA. I DID NOT INDICATE ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE.

2. PAK DCM SAID THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO KABUL PUZANOV

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 202507 TOSEC 100161

HAD ENCOUNTERED PAK AMBASSADOR ALI ARSHAD AT A RECEPTION ON

OR ABOUT AUGUST 8 AND PUZANOV HAD TEASED ARSHAD ABOUT NEVER CALLING ON THE RUSSIANS. PUZANOV ADDED THAT HE KNEW THAT ARSHAD WAS SEEING THE CHINESE "ALL THE TIME". PUZANOV ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID TO ARSHAD HE HAD AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR HIM.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON AUGUST 9, ARSHAD CALLED ON PUZANOV AT THE USSR EMBASSY. AT THIS MEETING, ACCORDING TO PAK DCM KHAN, PUZANOV DELIVERED A STERN LECTURE ON RECENT ALLEGED UNFRIENDLINESS ON THE PART OF PAKISTAN TOWARDS RUSSIAN AND ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IF SUCH UNFRIENDLY TRENDS WERE TO CONTINUE, THE RUSSIANS MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD THAT "COLONIAL REMNANT," THE PAKISTAN/AFGHAN BORDER. (AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE PAK/AFGHAN BORDER HAD NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED BEFORE BY THE RUSSIANS.)

4. THE PAK DCM SAID THIS CONVERSATION WAS REPORTED TO ISLAMABAD AND, STILL ACCORDING TO THE PAK DCM, THE PUZANOV DEMARCHE SUBSEQUENTLY WAS RAISED IN ISLAMABAD WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL ZORIN DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN. ACCORDING TO KHAN, ZORIN TOLD THE PAKISTANIS THERE MUST BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, SINCE RU SIAN POLICY REMAINED CONSTANT TOWARD PAKISTAN.

5. THEN, TWO DAYS AGO (AUGUST 22 OR 23), KHAN TOLD ME, PUZANOV ENCOUNTERED ARSHAD AT A SOCIAL OCCASION IN KABUL AND "OUT OF THE BLUE" DENIED THAT HE HAD SAID ANYTHING TO ARSHAD ON AUGUST 9TH ABOUT CALLING INTO QUESTION THE PAK/AF FRONTIER. WHEN ARSHAD SAID HE WAS QUITE SURE HE HAD UNDERSTOOD PUZANOV'S PRESENTATION, PUZANOV RETORTED THAT HIS RUSSIAN TRANSLATOR MADE A MISTAKE.

6. AT THE END OF THE AICOUNT, I ASKED TANVIR KHAN WHAT HE MADE OF ALL THIS. KHAN REPLIED THAT HE FELT PERHAPS PUZANOV HAD "OVERDONE IT" IN EXPRESSING USSR CONCERN TO PAKISTAN FOR THE INTEGRITY OF AFGHANISTAN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE PANJSHIR INSURGENCY IN JULY 1975. (THERE WERE REPORTS AT THE TIME THAT THE INSURGENCY HAD PAK SUPPORT). HOWEVER, KHAN SAID, ISLAMABAD HAD BEEN VERY WORRIED BY THE ORIGINAL RUSSIAN DEMARCHE SINCE THE PAKS ARE WATCHING CLOSELY WHAT KHAN DESCRIBED AS "THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN INDIA" WHICH COULD LEAD THE DELHI

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 202507 TOSEC 100161

GOVERNMENT TO MILITARY ADVENTURISM AGAINST PAKISTAN. SUCH A VENTURE, ACCORDING TO KHAN, MIGHT INVOLVE THE AFGHANS AND BE ORCHESTRATED BY THE SOVIETS TO DESTROY PAKISTAN AND ENHANCE THE RUSSIAN POSITION IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

7. I THANKED MR KHAN FOR CONFIDING IN ME AND TOLD HIM IT WAS OUR ASSESSMENT HERE THAT AT PRESENT THE AFGHAN MILITARY BY ITSELF POSED NO THREAT TO PAKISTAN. I ALSO TOLD HIM IT

WAS US POLICY TO URGE RESTRAINT AND MODERATION ON THE
AFGHANS IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN.

8. KHAN, WHILE AGREEING THAT THE AFGHAN ARMY BY ITSELF WAS
NO MENACE TO PAKISTAN, SAID THE SOVIETS AND INDIANS HAD TO
BE CLOSELY WATCHED. KHAN SAID THE RUSSIANS WERE MOVING MORE
ADVISORS INTO THE AFGHAN ARMY AND SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WAS
POTENTIALLY OMINOUS.

9. WE AGREED TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON THESE MATTERS.

10. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO ISLAMABAD, DELHI
MOSCOW AND TEHRAN.
CURRAN UNQTE
INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE202507
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAPECK/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N750003-0467
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750817/aaaaaopz.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 195235, 75 KABUL 5307, 75 ISLAMABAD 7433
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED SOVIET APPROACH TO PAKISTAN ON PAK/AF BORDER
TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, UR, (KHAN, KABUL TANVIR), (PUZANOV, KABUL), (ALI ARSHAD)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006